

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION  
(PCT Rule 61.2)Date of mailing (day/month/year)  
25 April 2001 (25.04.01)To:  
Commissioner  
US Department of Commerce  
United States Patent and Trademark  
Office, PCT  
2011 South Clark Place Room  
CP2/5C24  
Arlington, VA 22202  
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE  
in its capacity as elected OfficeInternational application No.  
PCT/US00/23261Applicant's or agent's file reference  
54984PCT4AInternational filing date (day/month/year)  
24 August 2000 (24.08.00)Priority date (day/month/year)  
30 August 1999 (30.08.99)

Applicant

SAWAJIRI, Osamu

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

07 March 2001 (07.03.01)

 in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election  was was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Pascal Piriou

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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>54984PCT4A</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/US 00/ 23261</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>24/08/2000</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>30/08/1999</b>
Applicant <b>3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 2 sheets.  
 It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**
  - a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
    - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
  - b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
    - contained in the international application in written form.
    - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
    - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
    - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
    - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
2.  **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).
3.  **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).
4. With regard to the **title**,
  - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
  - the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the **abstract**,
  - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
  - the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1
  - as suggested by the applicant.
  - because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
  - because this figure better characterizes the invention.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/23261

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A47C31/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47C B29C B60N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 657 118 A (KURARAY CO) 14 June 1995 (1995-06-14) the whole document ---	1-14
A	US 5 236 243 A (REYES RICHARD M) 17 August 1993 (1993-08-17) the whole document -----	1-14

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

### Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/12/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Neijler, F

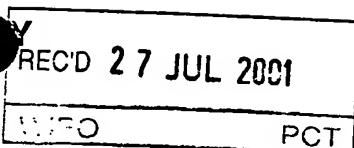
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/23261

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0657118 A	14-06-1995	JP 7148007 A		13-06-1995
		DE 69423301 D		13-04-2000
		DE 69423301 T		30-11-2000
		US 5688576 A		18-11-1997
		US 5972465 A		26-10-1999
US 5236243 A	17-08-1993	CA 2090599 A,C		01-10-1993



## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70) 14

Applicant's or agent's file reference 54984PCT4A	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US00/23261	International filing date (day/month/year) 24/08/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 30/08/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A47C31/02			
Applicant 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07/03/2001	Date of completion of this report 25.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Lassen, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2320



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/23261

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, pages:**

1-21 as originally filed

**Claims, No.:**

1-14 as originally filed

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/12-12/12 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/23261

the drawings,      sheets:

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):  
*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 1-14
	No:	Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims 1-14
	No:	Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-14
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

**VIII. Certain observations on the international application**

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:  
**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/23261

**Re item V**

1. The invention concerns a fastener member (claims 6,7) a fastener installing device (claim 1) and a combination of these two (claim 8). The technical field mainly addressed is that of manufacturing cushioned seats, and more particularly to attach the outermost layer of such a seat to the molded, profiled core thereof. This is done by embedding an strip with attachment means in the molded core, said strip being fixedly located in the mould for said core. Previously this was a manually somewhat time-consuming process. The invention sets out to rationalise this process and does so by providing a particular fastener installing device and strips customised therefor. With the claimed means the process can be carried out in a more efficient manner due to the possibility of simultaneously installing more strips. None of the available prior art discloses the claimed subject-mater, nor renders it obvious; the provisions of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT are met.

**Re item VIII**

2. The wording "...said body (24, 122) is transferred..." (emphasis added) in claims 1 and 8 is unclear, the term 'transferred' having no unambiguous, technical meaning in the given context.